

CAMDEN,

FRIDAY EVENING, SEPT. 12, 1851.

THO. J. WARREN, Editor.

EDITORIAL SCRIBBLINGS.

From the Stone Mountain, we took passage via Railroad, to Decatur, a flourishing little town, eight miles distant. We found good accommodations at the hotel of Dr. E. N. Calhoun, (a relative of our honored statesman.) The name, of itself, is enough to recommend it to the patronage of every true Carolinian who venerates (and who does not!) the name of the immortal CALHOUN.—The Doctor is a good Southern Rights man, as a matter of course. Being a native of South Carolina, and a gentleman from a good stock, he is able to appreciate the situation of his native State, and if need be, to lend a hand to sustain her cause, which is his cause, and that of all who are identified with the interests of the South. I had the pleasure of meeting here, Dr. Tennent, formerly a resident of Edgefield District, in our State. He is a "TRAITOR" of the "TRUE BLUE" stamp, and in his political feelings a man after my own heart.—We have this consolation, in Georgia, there is many-a-one of the same sort—men who are willing, tomorrow, to walk up to the mark, and if need be, "with their coffins on their backs."

I have been repeatedly assured here that the cause here is brightening, and strong hopes are entertained of McDonald's election. Gentlemen say that Mr. Cobb, if elected Governor, and the re-quisition was made upon him by the abolition President, Millard Filmore, Esq., he could not muster men enough who would dare to attempt the coercion of South Carolina. I entertain very serious doubts in relation to McDonald's election—I believe Cobb will be the next Governor of Georgia. Great discussions are going on now in the State between the opposing candidates. A gentleman by the name of Jonathan Davis, who, as our friend, Major G—, says, is a good "debater," seems to be creating quite a sensation among the "TOOMS," and will, likely, batter down some of those "MASKED BATTERIES," which federal power has erected, before he is done. I have not had the pleasure of meeting him, but have heard him highly spoken of. There is too much vile submissionism and truckling to federal power yet in Georgia, to expect her co-operation in resisting aggression, until the issue is made so plainly that they could not avoid it. They will submit and submit to anything—the influences here are too strong against us—the States who are alike interested in this matter will not move off simultaneously, and you need not expect it. Mississippi has demonstrated this to our entire satisfaction—64 UNION to 7 STATES RIGHTS men elected to the State Convention! "This is a nice business! Co-operation is not the word for Carolinians. I am glad to see that Mr. Rhett is hard at work, and that old Lancaster, the District which gave birth to Jackson, Blair and other distinguished men is marching up right. We know where to find Lancaster.

To resume my scribblings in Georgia—DeKalb county has three towns or villages within its borders, viz: STONE MOUNTAIN, to be sure, not very large, but some, in the way of rocks; ATLANTA, the great Railroad meeting-place, and a thriving, flourishing town, as I have been told, DECATUR, a very pleasant place to stop at, and one may enjoy a day or two quite comfortably. There is a Court House and the usual accompaniment, a House of Correction, &c. a Jail, two Churches, Presbyterian and Methodist, a Chair factory, &c. We left Decatur for Augusta on Saturday, (165 miles) and passed the Sabbath in the latter place.

Georgia is far ahead of our State in improvements—Factories, of various kinds, are in great abundance.

The Cuban expedition is talked of a great deal in Georgia, and there was a good deal of sympathy for the patriots. Since my arrival in Aiken, I have heard there is a company in Augusta ready to march to Savannah to join a company to go to Cuba for the purpose of avenging the death of Lopez, who, I see by the papers, has been taken and garoted. Our men had better stay at home and prepare to fight some other folks. We need all the men for war purposes at home.

I am again at Aiken, and Mr. Wagner, mine host, continues his kind attentions, making one feel perfectly at home. This is a delightful place, and the Coker Springs are worth visiting. When I write you again, it will be
At Home. W.
Aiken, Sept. 9, 1851.

Special attention is called to the letter of Mr. John G. Winter, in another column, on the subject of Plank Roads, which has been kindly handed us for publication. Our readers are requested to read and ponder it, and then, with such evidence before them, begin the work without delay, and push it forward—success must crown the undertaking.

Fugitive Slave Law.

Our co-operation brethren, those who are for "waiting a reasonable time," and then resisting alone, if co-operation cannot be obtained—those who, in case of failure to obtain co-operation, are content to remain in the Union as it is, "and bear the ills we have," rather (as they suppose) "than fly to others they know not of," are respectfully requested to read an extract from the New York Herald, in another column, and then tell us how much longer they are willing to wait for the much desired co-operation of other States.

The case of the slave Daniel, who acknowledged himself a slave, and was willing to return with his master, is at this time, a peculiar one indeed, and should be so noted by the people of the south, for the termination of it in the manner it did, goes to prove that the people of the North, who have grown arrogant from the fact of our supineness, now begin to believe and wish to show us that they believe "we cannot be kicked into resistance." Can we blame them for the presumption? No, we cannot—for the blame is laid at our own doors, and when the divisions and party strifes

that have arisen among us during the last four or five months, is taken into account, we can only wonder that their presumption and arrogance has not gone farther.

Men who are endowed by nature and education with ability, and are promoted by the suffrages of their countrymen to lead the way in the affairs of a sovereign State at a crisis like the present, are, in a greater or less degree, responsible for the welfare of that State—they are recognized as men competent to advise in time of need or difficulty—as such, they are expected to advise. How careful then, should they be in giving their counsel, knowing the influence they wield.

The present position of South Carolina is one which should call forth all the energies of her statesmen, among whom none stand higher than her Senators in Congress and the Judiciary at home; to those men we look for advice and counsel, and fearful indeed, will be the responsibility if in following their counsels, the State falls from her high and patriotic position to that of submission—to that of dishonor.

Previous to the Convention of the Southern Rights Associations held in May last, the Secession or Southern Rights Party was in the majority, and we think is yet, but the course of Messrs. CHEVES, BUTLER, BARNWELL, and a few other prominent leading men has had the effect of turning aside many, who would, we doubt not, have adhered to that party and carried out its principles. Such a change, brought about by such men is to be regretted, but we cannot censure, we can only regret that they did not pursue a different course, inasmuch as their high positions will ever entitle them to our respect, though obliged to differ with them on this all-important subject.

The case to which we alluded in the outset as growing out of the party strifes and divisions in the south, we are persuaded is self-evident, indirect though it may be; these influences will be brought to bear upon the actions of the Northern people; for when a house is divided against itself, nothing is more natural than for the common enemy to rejoice and prey upon both—which they are sure to do, when the very sentinels cry peace, peace, though there is no peace. The time is fast approaching when the elections for the Southern Congress will be held—the fiercer is of the south will then know their own strength as well as that of their enemies, and until then, we can only speculate upon the result and hope for the best.

Telegraphic despatches from Washington announce the withdrawal by Gen. Quitman of his name from the canvass for Governor of Mississippi.

A "Step Backwards."

The Sumter Banner of the 9th inst., announces a change of Editors as well as of position; it has abandoned the Resistance Party, and now goes for CO-OPERATION—failing which, it does not give us to understand what end it will go for. We subjoin its introductory remarks, leaving our readers to form their own conclusions. Won't the Standard rejoice now?

"The Banner comes to its patrons under changed auspices its future course will differ materially from that hitherto advocated by its late Editor. It is due to ourselves and to the public that we should lay down the political form we now propose to occupy. We believe that a Southern Confederacy furnishes the only safe and efficient mode of resistance to the wrongs that have been inflicted upon us. We believe that the existence of slavery depends upon the concerted action of those interested in its existence. We are fully satisfied that the Separate Secession of South Carolina at this time, not only brings no remedy for the evils complained of by her, but only gives them a more aggravated character.

Holding these propositions to be true, it becomes our duty to advocate such measures as have for their object the Co-operation of our Sister States, and to oppose the views of that party now earnestly endeavoring to bring about the Separate Secession of South Carolina.

Correspondence of the Camden Journal.
CHARLESTON, Sept. 10.

Dear Journal: I suppose you would like to hear from the city occasionally, by other means than the public prints. Acting under this impression, I will just "drop a line."

The City of Charleston is one of the healthiest cities in the world—see the tables of mortality in the papers, for proof—and yet people die. Many kill themselves by love and wine.—As to those laboring under the former disease, there are many persons here fully competent to remove the danger of the malady by the solemnization of the rites of marriage, and I may remark that they have no objection to practice their calling in that respect, when a liberal fee may reasonably be expected.

As to the matter of wine, it has assumed a "port and wine" in its walking, that is truly gigantic. How else can it be, when in almost all parties, she who is called the "human angel" proffers the cup of enchantment? How hard must it be, when offered by such a hand, to dash it down! If we could but have a female society after the fashion of the "Daughters of Temperance," or the very thing itself, what immense benefit it would be, especially to the young men of the city! But do not suppose we are doing nothing in the temperance cause. We have some prosperity: but what is the addition of twenty or thirty to a Division of Sons, compared to the thousands around us? It is but a drop in the bucket. This prosperity has raised our hopes some, especially in Vigilant Division No. 10. How prospers the cause with you in Camden?

As to other matters, I know nothing new, except the new workshope of the Rail Road Company, which quite covers the appear-

ance of the upper part of the city. They are soon to enter them—I am told that most of the machinery has arrived, and much of it put up. Suffer me here, to mention a fault. The Company sent to the North for a workman to put up the machinery, which is from the North too—the man got drunk and suffered it to leak out that he was an abolitionist, and he said that "the North would not mind our Secession any more than a Bull would care for the crawling of a gnat on his horn," and he said that "South Carolina would be whipped back into the Union and her slaves taken away in the bargain." The next day he had to leave the city. Don't you suppose for a moment that there were no mechanics competent to do that work, or make the engines required—there are quantities of them, and that too, in the neighborhood of them. See Eason's Engine Factory in Columbus st., employing Yankee's in the place of Southern workmen of equal talents, and their abominable Sabbath breaking, are very much abused, and condemned, and your correspondent thinks, justly so.

PENCIL MARK.

For the Camden Journal.

LETTER FROM JOHN G. WINTER, ON THE SUBJECT OF PLANK ROADS.

COLUMBUS GA., Sept. 2, 1851.

Dear Sir:—Your esteemed favor of the 20th ult., came duly to hand, but found me too indisposed to reply; I embrace the earliest moment that my health would allow, but a press of engagement will compel me to be brief. I am engaged in building two Roads and a branch, from Wetumpka north, south, and a branch east, to intersect the Montgomery and West Point Railroad, at a point 45 miles north east from Montgomery. When the road from Montgomery to Wetumpka and hence to Northulgo which have been completed, it will be a parallel road, and I confidently expect that the Plank Road will take nearly the entire business of the country on the line of the Rail Road, and for many miles beyond our proposed terminus. The planters without exception say they will give our Plank Road the preference; and I should say without the least hesitation, that with the facilities which you possess for communicating with the sea board, enabling you to give the best price for produce, and to sell your goods at prices almost if not quite as low at retail as Charleston, that a Road to Salisbury, will place Camden on higher grounds than she has ever occupied. Of this you may rest assured that no trade will be taken from the Plank Road by a Rail Road. Planters and Farmers may do their trading at the northern terminus of your contemplated Plank Road, but after a waggon once gets on the Plank Road (tolls being reasonable) it will never leave it until it makes a large and reliable market, such as Camden was when I knew it. Such a line of country as you describe the proposed route for your Plank Road, is extremely favorable, and ought not to cost over \$1500 per mile. I would prefer a grade of 150 feet to the mile, to a dead level. It is better for the teams, and is easier kept in order, as you can get a longitudinal drainage as well as a lateral. My experience teaches that the Plank is the first thing to attend to and they should be laid down simultaneously with the grading. It is better and much cheaper—3 inch plank is as thick as there is any occasion for, and 2 1-2 does very well. They should be 8 1-2 feet long and no longer, taking especial care to have one heart face to each plank, and allowing none but square edge to go into your Road.

As to the profits what may be expected from it, I can give no opinion, for I am unacquainted with the country, but the population must be sparse indeed if it fails to pay. If you carry it as far as Salisbury, it strikes me it would be fine stock, and the larger you make it the better it will pay. The power of a Plank Road to build up and develop and improve a country, is greater than a Rail Road almost beyond conception. On the Roads which we are building, it brings lands into market that never before had a market. It affords inducements to settlement that were never thought of before.

As a means of transportation it has no equal for any distance not over 150 miles, and at no distant day, will be preferred by farmers to bring their own produce to market, a distance of 300 miles, even with a Rail Road along side. Observation and reason have long since led me to the conclusion, and subsequent practical experience only adds strength to my convictions.

Our Roads charge about 2c. per mile for Buggies, and 3 1-2 for Carriages—2c. per mile for 2 horse waggons, and others in proportion, but we shall lower our rates as we lengthen the road. When corn is worth 50c. and fodder 75c., a teamster will make money by hauling 100 miles for 25c. the 100 lbs., loading one way, and if he can get loading both ways, 20c. for 100 lbs. the 100 miles is a coining business. My teams are making short hauls, loading and unloading themselves, at 31 1-4c. per 1000 lbs. for 5 miles and load only one way—the loading and unloading is equal to about 1-4th or 1-5th the charge—and they are making money. I have 40 head of mules (10 hands) engaged in transporting lumber at these rates.

If you should proceed with your enterprise, you would find it profitable to visit our Road;

you will be able to pick up a good many valuable hints. We have had a great deal to learn and paid a great deal for it, all of which you can procure with but little trouble and without any cost but travelling expenses. I shall be happy to show you what we have done, and doing, and to impart all the information which I possess.

With a tender of my best services and my best wishes for the success of your laudable enterprise, I remain

Yours respectfully,
JOHN G. WINTER.

N. B.—In making calculations for transportation on Plank Roads as compared with Rail Roads, bear in mind the waggoner takes his load on at the Barn or Gin House and delivers at the Ware House and vice versa. There are but 2 handlings, against 7 on a Rail Road—loading and unloading the dray, loading and unloading at the Depot, loading and unloading at the terminus of the Road, and unloading at the final destination—where the haul is not a very lengthy one, this of itself is fatal to the Rail Road. The data which I have given applies to public carriers, but applies with ten fold force to the farmer who acts his own carrier, and is out nothing but his tolls, and if he is lucky will get back loading in competition with the Rail Road, and arrive at home with more money than when he left there—thus practically doing his own hauling for less than nothing.

J. G. W.

For the Camden Journal.

Mr. Editor: I was pleased to see in your paper of the 9th inst., a letter written by yourself from Georgia, under date of 4th September, from which I make the following extract: "The people here are having their eyes opened to the true state of affairs, and the result must prove beneficial to Southern Rights; discussion and argument must be used, and truth which is mighty and omnipotent must prevail." I say I was pleased to see this assertion, because it embodies a truth constantly affirmed by the Co-operation party, but strenuously denied by our opponents; coming, however, as it does now, from a separate State action Editor, and written too among the people of whom he speaks, it must have its proper influence on the numerous readers of the Journal.

A CO-OPERATIONIST.

For the Camden Journal.

Mr. Editor.—I take the liberty of sending you a Conundrum which I hope you will not object to publishing—

Why is the Sumter Banner opposed to Daniel Webster?

Ans.—Because he said "I take no step backwards." You can finish the answer.

Yours, &c.,
OBSERVER.

DECISION ON THE FUGITIVE SLAVE LAW.

We stated the other day, and expressed our gratification for the fact, that the fugitive slave act of 1850 had been faithfully enforced by the judicial authorities of the free States, and that its enforcement had been generally acquiesced in, except in the case of Shadrach in Boston. We had not then directed our attention to the decision of Judge Conklin, United States Judge of the Western district of this State, in the case of the fugitive slave Davis, on a writ of habeas corpus, which was made on Saturday last, discharging the fugitive, who immediately fled to Canada. In this case H. K. Smith, esq., United States Commissioner at Buffalo, had, after an impartial hearing, given a certificate remanding the fugitive slave to his master. There is not a shadow of doubt of his being a fugitive slave as claimed. This point is beyond dispute. Hence Davis fled to Canada as soon as Judge Conklin discharged him.

The ground of the discharge is, that he escaped in August, 1850, and that the last fugitive slave law was passed by Congress in September, 1850. The argument is, that the law of September does not apply, and the rule as to *ex post facto* enactments (referring entirely to laws respecting crimes) is invoked in the construction of the act, though it appears a somewhat novel recourse. But the act of 1793 is not repealed by the act of 1850. The Supreme Court of the United States decided, in the case of Prigg, that the extradition clause of the Constitution referring to fugitives from labor was self-executing—that Congress might enact laws giving federal, judicial, or other officers, power to enforce the constitutional obligations, and prescribing modes and forms of proceeding, &c., but that Congress could not devolve the duty on State, judicial, or other officers, and that State legislation could not provide or restrict, or control the remedy. The act of 1793, excepting the clauses authorizing State authorities to enforce it, is still in full force. The act of September, 1850, does not repeal it, for the title of the latter expressly states it to be amendatory of the act of 1793. The Constitution imperatively requires the fugitive slave to be delivered up. The words are:

"No person held to service or labor in one State under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

It would seem to be a palpable evasion of the Constitution, and indeed a violation of it, if the fact of owing service or labor is proved, and the fact of the slave having escaped is proved, for a judicial officer to discharge him. The legislation of Congress cannot fetter or restrict the constitutional right of the master. No legislation of Congress should be so construed as to restrain or embarrass such right. The provision of the Constitution is imperative

and paramount. The act of 1793 and the act of 1850 were both intended to facilitate the enforcement of that right, not to embarrass or restrain it—not to nullify the constitutional provision; but were in aid of it. The decision, as reported, seems to us to be an evasion of the act of 1793, or rather that portion of it still unrepealed, and declared by the supreme Court of the United States to be within the Constitution; and likewise an evasion of the law of 1850, notoriously intended to be cumulative to the act of 1793. The criticism about technical forms and papers, and the discharge of the slave in the face of full proof of his being a slave and a fugitive, looks like quibbling away the remedy intended to be given in good faith by the compromise acts. The South will not be satisfied with this mode of expounding and administering the law. If the decision of Judge Conklin is adhered to, fugitive slaves in this State, who escaped prior to September, 1850, have in effect full immunity, for they cannot be delivered up under the law of that month. If arrested under it, Judge Conklin will not deliver them up under the act of 1793, nor under the constitutional obligation and pledge; but they will be discharged, so as to enable them to run to Canada. This decision will, we predict, arouse and excite the South more than any thing that has occurred. We regret that it has occurred and especially that it was made in New York.

[New York Herald.]

THE COTTON CROP.

The first wagon load of five bales of new cotton of the crop of this State, was received yesterday by A. O. Harris and Co. from the plantation of Gen. Sarnell J. Hays, in this county. In quality it is strictly Middling Fair, of fine rich color, but rather deficient in staple, as must be the case with a large portion of the present crop. The dry weather has forced the cotton to premature maturity, and the product of the uplands, especially must be not only deficient in staple, but greatly deficient in quality. We have the most reliable and undoubted evidence I can nearly the whole country back to this, that the crop cannot turn out more than three hundred pounds of seed cotton to the acre. The bottom lands, and here and there an isolated farm where they have had an occasional rain, will do better, but even on these favored spots, since the late rains the forms and small bolls have fallen off and the yield will not be so great as it would have been if the dry weather had continued. The plant has ceased to bloom on the bottom as well as the uplands, and while we have everything to fear from excessive rains, we have but little to gain by the most favorable weather in regard to the quality produced, for the crop is so nearly matured that on many farms more than one-half of the cotton is already open, and while those at a distance, unacquainted with the facts, are predicting a "large crop" from its going forward so much earlier than usual, we who are in the midst of it, know that this fact argues exactly the contrary, and whatever may be the effect of the draught in other places, we "speak by the card" when we say that in the Western District of Tennessee and North Mississippi, the half of an average crop cannot be made.—Memphis Appeal, 28th ult.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

We understand that the President has at length returned to the seat of government. It was certainly time that the country should be relieved of the apprehension caused by the absence of the Chief Magistrate at so important a period as the present. No one would deny to the President or to his cabinet officers the relaxation consistent with the just care of the public interests; but this indulgence at all times demands that *absenteeism* should furnish no just ground for the fear that other motives than those of useful recreation had been consulted. The visit to Dankirk, in the midst of elections involving most important party issues, witnessed the President and a great portion of the cabinet openly influencing, by their speeches and writings, the opinions of the people. Since that period numerous occasions have arisen which expose the same high officers to such imputations; and, lastly, the President himself has thrown around his recent visit to the mountains of Virginia too much of the air and manner of the candidate to permit the idea that he had not lost sight of that delicate and just sentiment which enjoins that the *patronage of office and power should not be brought into conflict with the freedom of elections.*

Washington Union.

THE EXPEDITION AGAINST CUBA.

From the disposition of Francisco Alenandro Laine, a Cuban who landed with Lopez, and who afterwards surrendered to the authorities, we gather the following narrative of the expedition. The deposition is published at length in an extra of the Havana "Prensa" of the 1st instant.

They left the mouth of the Mississippi with 450 men, with the intention of going first to Rio San Juan, where they expected to find a like number of artillerymen, and thence to some point in the Central Department. But having touched at Key West for provisions, intelligence was given to Lopez that Pinar del Rio, and nearly all Vuelta Abajo, (the country situated to the leeward of Havana,) had risen. This intelligence caused Lopez to change his direction, and to steer for a landing in Vuelta Abajo. On the 11th August, at 11 o'clock at night they landed on the beach at Morrillo, without any other opposition than a few shots fired by some countrymen who fled. The beach was deserted and the store was open, Colonel Crittenden and about two hundred men remained here to take care of some spare muskets and some provisions; the remainder of the expedition with Lopez marched to Los Pozos, meeting only a few countrymen, who fled at their sight. That on their arrival at Los Pozos, they found the village abandoned, and in spite of their entreaties the villagers refused to return. On the next day they were attacked by the Queen's troops, who retired after some time, leaving Lopez in possession of the village. In this action the invaders lost General Pragay, one Colonel, Captain Obero, and about fifty men killed or wounded. The discomfiture which had taken possession of